

**BEFORE THE OREGON  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

)  
) **FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION**  
) **BY DEFAULT**  
)  
)  
) **Reference No. 12-01846**

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The Oregon State Board of Nursing (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining certain health care providers, including Registered Nurses. Cheryl Knutson (Licensee) is a Registered Nurse in the state of Oregon.

This matter was considered by the Board at its meeting on January 16, 2013.

On November 29, 2012, a Notice stating that the Board intended to revoke the Registered Nurse license of Cheryl Knutson was sent to her via certified and first-class mail to her address of record. The Notice alleged that Licensee obtained and used opioid pain relievers that were not prescribed to her, and failed to successfully complete recommended chemical dependency treatment.

The Notice granted Licensee an opportunity for hearing if requested within twenty (20) days of the mailing of the Notice. No such request for hearing has been received by the Board. The Notice designated the Board's file on this matter as the record for purposes of default.

NOW THEREFORE, after consideration of its records and files related to this matter, the Board enters the following Order:

**-I-**

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Based on the evidence submitted through the Notice and the agency file in this case, the Board finds the following:

1. On July 13, 1995, Licensee was issued a Registered Nurse license in the state of Oregon.
2. In March 2012, Licensee contacted the Board to report she had been over-using her prescription pain medication, specifically Norco.
3. On or about March 2, 2012, Licensee signed a "last chance agreement" with her employer. By her signature, Licensee agreed to have a chemical dependency assessment and comply with all treatment and follow-up recommendations. Licensee further agreed to comply with random drug testing.
4. In March 2012, Licensee underwent a chemical dependency assessment. Licensee was

diagnosed as opiate dependent with a recommendation that she participate in chemical dependency treatment. Licensee did not successfully complete all of her treatment recommendations.

5. In an interview with Board staff in June 2012, Licensee stated that she had obtained and used opioid pain relievers that were not prescribed to her, in addition to using her prescribed pain medication.
6. On or about June 15, 2012, Licensee tested positive for oxycodone in a drug test administered by her employer, in violation of her last chance agreement.
7. On November 29, 2012, Board staff mailed a Notice of Proposed Revocation to Licensee via first-class and certified mail. The Notice granted Licensee twenty (20) days from the date of the mailing of the Notice to request a hearing. The Notice also designated that the agency file would be the record for purposes of default.

**-II-**

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. That the Board has jurisdiction over the Licensee, Cheryl Knutson, and over the subject matter of this proceeding.
2. That Licensee's conduct is in violation of of ORS 678.111(1)(f) and OAR 851-045-0070(2)(i) & (5)(d).
3. That Licensee defaulted on the Notice by not requesting a hearing within the allotted twenty (20) days and, as a result, pursuant to ORS 183.417(3), the Board may enter a Final Order by Default.

**-III-**

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and the Board being fully advised in the premises, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Registered Nurse License of Cheryl Knutson is REVOKED.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2013

**FOR THE BOARD OF NURSING OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

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Kay Carnegie, RN, MS  
Board President

TO: CHERYL KNUTSON:

You may file a petition for reconsideration or rehearing of this Order. Reconsideration or rehearing may be obtained by filing a petition with the Board of Nursing within (sixty) 60 days from the service of this Order. Your petition shall set forth the specific grounds for reconsideration. Reconsideration or rehearing is pursuant to the provisions in ORS 183.482.

As an alternative to filing a Petition for Reconsideration of this Order, you are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition with the Oregon Court of Appeals for review within sixty (60) days from the date of service of this Order. Judicial review is pursuant to the provisions of ORS 183.482.

If, after a minimum of three (3) years, you wish to reinstate your Registered Nurse License, you may submit an application to the Board to request reinstatement.

SIGNATURES & DATED COPY ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE